FREE

EXTRA — EXTRA — EXTRA

gay community news

Vol. 6 No. 6A ©GCN, 1978 (617) 426-4469 September 1, 1978

Coalition Formed to Protest Visit

Anita Bryant to Appear in Boston

BOSTON — Nearly two hundred members of the lesbian and gay communities, along with non-gay supporters, met Thursday, Sept. 24 at Boston's Old West Church to decide on an appropriate response to the scheduled appearance of Anita Bryant on Sept. 1 at a fundraiser for Howard Phillips' bid for the United States Senate. Those present at the meeting formed the September 1 Coalition, an ad-hoc group that has assumed responsibility for all aspects of the demonstrations.

Phillips has invited Bryant to sing and speak at a "pro-life, pro-family rally" at Hynes Auditorium in the Prudential Center. Phillips expressed his "particular pride" in having Bryant hold a rally on his behalf. "Mine is the first political candidacy she has campaigned actively for," Phillips said. Phillips characterized Bryant as a leader "in a number of moral fights in which pro-life is emphasized."

The participants at the September 1 Coalition meeting expressed a desire to show support for all those human rights threatened by Bryant's so-called "pro-life" stance. The participants were concerned with Bryant's anti-semitism, opposition to women's rights, racism, and concerted anti-gay crusade. Members of the Abortion Action Coalition, Boston-Boise, Mass. Caucus for Gay Legislation, NOW, Committee for Gay Youth, Clearspace, MCC, Dignity, Integrity, Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus and Am Tivka were in attendance.

After a lengthy debate, a collective decision was made to have an on-the-site demonstration. Resolutions were also passed supporting women's right to choice, an invitation to religious leaders to speak, and permission for supporting groups to raise funds at the demonstration.

At later committee meetings, an outreach committee was formed to contact concerned groups throughout New England, a publicity campaign was begun to contact persons in the Boston area, and the details of the demonstration were settled.

The demonstration itself will begin at Copley Square, Friday at 6 p.m. From Copley Square there will be a march to Hynes Auditorium where the demonstration will continue for the duration of Bryant's appearance. The participants will then march to a location yet to be announced for entertainment and dispersal.

Volunteers are still needed for various aspects of the protest. There will be an opportunity for representatives of concerned organizations to speak during the march in front of Hynes. These speeches are to be limited to two minutes and will be interspersed with entertainment. Anyone interested in speaking may contact one of the demonstration monitors: Kathy Travers at 776-3340, Joe Martin at 491-0672, or Joe Miller at 266-2310 or 267-4521. Experienced marshalls are needed and are asked to gather at 5 p.m. Friday in Copley Square on the steps of Trinity Church, where Dave Droiet, John Mitzel and Kathy Travers will conduct an orientation in promoting and maintaining a non-violent demonstration. A group is being formed to meet the members of Bryant's audience as they enter Hynes and engage them in one-on-one discussions of the demonstrators' positions. Those interested in joining this group should contact Ron Vachon at 868-4854 between noon and 3 p.m. only.

Anita Bryant

The Coalition is planning to offer housing and child care services. Those needing or offering housing should contact Ron Vachon at the above number and time. Those who wish to use or help with the child care services should call the Gay Legislation office at 742-4811.

Groups are urged to march together under their banners. All are urged to bring posters, instruments and positive energy.

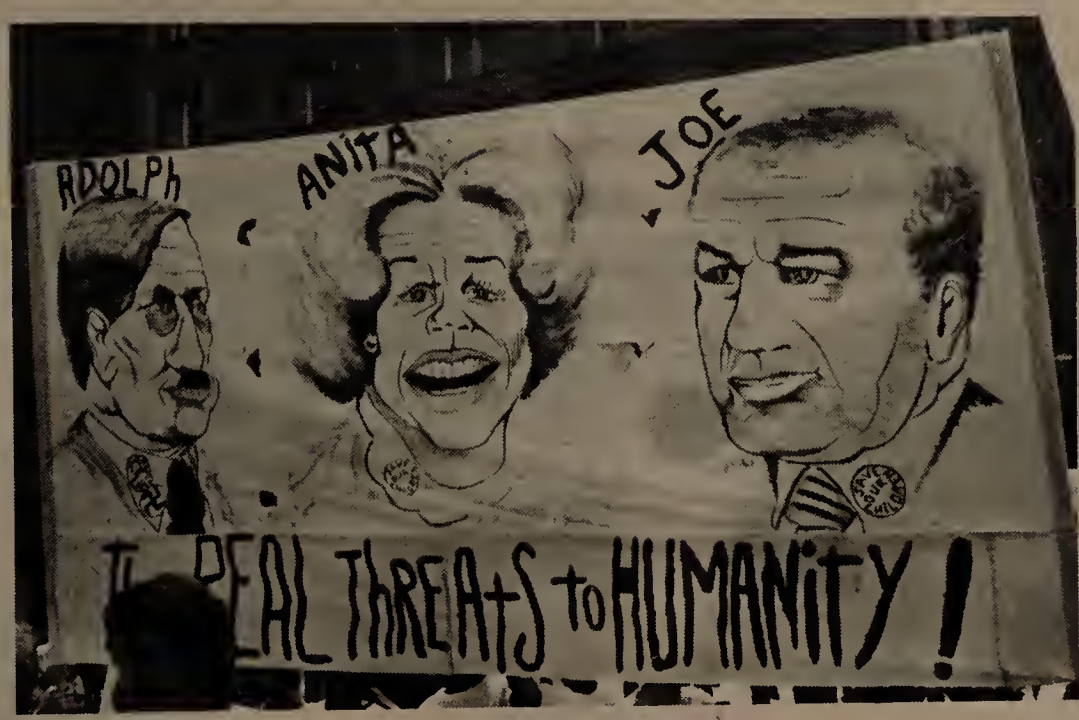
The New Right and the Rights of Women

By Diane Givens

Anita Bryant and Howard Phillips are advertising their joint appearance at a patriotic family evening for the so-called "pro-life" and "pro-family" ideas. The linkage of a woman's "correct" role as a mother/wife with love for her country ignores the social and economic realities of contemporary American society. This stand implies that women's lives must be controlled and determined by the "official" (traditional) sexual roles and mores.

In a society where the reported unemployment rate remains over 5% and inflation registers at 11%, few families can exist on one income. Even if a woman chooses to be a part of a nuclear family, she probably needs to seek employment outside her home. But the forces of the right are against making a woman's pay equal to that of her male counterpart. Anita Bryant voices her opposition to the ERA because it may destroy the woman's place in the home. This ostrich-like approach hides the fact that today over 45% of all American women are already in the work force.

This society discriminates against women, especially blacks born of Third World origin, poor and uneducated women. These women are usually "given" the lowest-paying menial types of jobs, if they are lucky enough to work at all. If women are denied employment, as many are, they struggle to survive on the meager crumbs of welfare and food stamps. These poor women in particular are being told to deny their sexuality or bear the "consequences" of their actions. With the denial of Medicaid funding for abortion, the poor woman is forced to choose being celibate, bearing children that society doesn't want, going to back alley cut-rate butchers, or being sterilized. No birth control method is 100% safe and the "pro-life" movement is also attempting to stop the dissemination of all family planning aids.



The response of the New Right is not to help women and children in this society. They are not seeking increases in welfare benefits, food stamps allocation, nutrition programs for women and children, better housing, more health care benefits, better schools, and more day care centers — as the Abortion Action Coalition advocates. The right for a poor and working woman to decide to have a child is not being supported in any meaningful manner.

Howard Phillips is notorious for being Nixon's henchman in dismantling and attempting to eradicate the OEO program. He also advocates the elimination of the food stamp program. The "pro-life" movement reaches its hypocritical height when they pursue a policy of starving women and children.

The pro-life movement is not pro-family. It is like a chameleon striking out at any attempt of women choosing how to change their lives or how to bear children in a healthy nuturing environment.

The Abortion Action Coalition is fighting to stop the erosion of gains won by women in the past few decades. We do not want women to return to the subservient role we once accepted. In order to fight this sex-only-for-procreation stance advocated by the New Right, we must unify and support the right of all women to have reproductive freedom.

For more information, please contact the Abortion Action Coalition, P.O. Box 2727, Boston, MA 02088.

Bryant's "Holy War" Since Dade County

By John Graczak

BOSTON — Anita Bryant, who will perform at a benefit concert this Friday night at Hynes Auditorium, by no means started her career with her opposition to the Dade County gay rights ordinance. Billed at twelve as, "Little Miss Terrific," second runner-up in the Miss America Beauty Pageant, and owner of three gold records, "Till There Was You," "Paper Roses," and "My Little Corner of the World," Anita became a presence against the gay community on January 18, 1977. On that day, after the passage of the Dade County gay rights ordinance, Anita assumed leadership of the movement to repeal the legislation. Shortly after, Anita, surrounded by several clergy and her husband, Bob Green, announced the formation of Save Our Children, Inc., claiming the right "to be jealous of the moral atmosphere in which my children grow up." Anita sang and interviewed, gays countered with boycott and voter contact, but the Dade County ordinance was defeated on June 7, 1977. Anita danced a jig.

After the repeal of the rights ordinance, Anita announced a "holy war" against gay rights throughout the country, and reported that orange juice sales had risen by 25% during her anti-gay crusade. On June 23, Robert Hillsborough, a 33 year-old gay man, was killed in San Francisco by four men who shouted, "Faggot, faggot," and "Here's one for Anita." Hillsborough's mother named Anita in a $5 million civil rights damage suit. Meanwhile, in Huntington W.Va., the Ku Klux Klan protected Anita at a rally. In Miami, where incidents of violence against gays were mounting, a gay man was shot after leaving a street dance. The Dade County Coalition called upon Anita and Save Our Children to issue a statement deploring the violence. There was no response.

Pie in the face in Des Moines

Litigation was brought against Anita by Save The Children Foundation, asking for a court order to change the name of Save Our Children, due to the decrease in contributions to the international, charitable organization. In face of the litigation, Anita changed the name of her organization to Protect Our Children. Meanwhile, a federal judge in San Francisco ordered the Hillsborough suit against Anita to be dismissed due to "lack of contacts" between California and Bryant. An appeal of the decision cited the connections between Anita and California State Senator John Briggs, author of the upcoming Briggs Initiative, which will prevent those suspected of being gay from teaching in California schools.

While Anita preached and sang, visiting Wichita to oversee the defeat of that city's gay rights ordinance, kudos rolled in from various sources. In August of last year, 3500 teenage beauty contestants voted Anita "America's greatest American." Dr. Bob Jones, president of the fundamentalist Bob Jones Universitysaid that Anita should be considered a national heroine because of her anti-gay crusade. "It is a reflection on Christian manhood that a woman possessed of moral courage and scriptural principle had to blow the whistle on these moral deviants," said Jones. Tom Higgins of the Target Cities Coalition rewarded Anita with a strawberry-rhubarb pie full in the face, at the same press conference in which Anita received the keys to the city of Des Moines. Anita claimed that the Florida Citrus Commission received one hundred death threats against her, but the Commission denied knowledge of any such threats. *Good Housekeeping Magazine* reported that Anita beat Pat Nixon by a "slim but substantial margin" to top its list of the "most admired women in America." *The Ladies Home Journal* published a poll in which 800 high school students voted that "Anita and Adolph Hitler had done the most damage to the world." This June, Anita addressed the Southern Baptist Convention along with President Jimmy Carter.

Protect Our Children recently reported that it will focus its work on the Initiative 13 campaign to repeal gay rights in Seattle. Anita has also set up a hotline and counseling center to "extend both spiritual and clinical help to homosexuals." Anita's future plans include a television special which will help America to make it possible to achieve "the good old traditions like motherhood, baseball, hotdogs and apple pie."

GCN CONTRIBUTORS

Gay Community News (G.C.N.) is dedicated to providing coverage of events and news of interest to the gay community. GCN is published every week (except the first week of January and the last week of August).

All material copyright © 1978 by G.C.N. Inc., all rights reserved, reprint by permission only.

Our main office is located at 22 Bromfield St., Boston, MA 02108. (617) 426-4469. Office hours: Mon.-Wed. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thu.-Fri. 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Opinions reflected in "editorial" represent the views of the editorial board. Signed letters and columns reflect the views and opinions of the authors only. Comments, criticisms, and information are always welcome from our readers: remember, it's YOUR paper!

Second-class postage paid at Boston, Mass. Annual subscription rate is $17.50.

ISSN: 0147-0728

Member New England Press Association
Gay Press Association COSMEP

Managing Editor	Richard Burns
News Editor	Jim Marko
Features Editor	Eric Rofes
Circulation	Kruk
Office Mgr./Bkkpr.	John Graczak
Editorial Consultant	David P. Brill
Classifieds	Nancy Walker
Art Director	Reg Taylor
Distribution	Pat M. Kuras
Business Manager	Roberta Stone
Advertising Mgr.	Tim Grant
Promotions Mgr.	David Peterson
Copy Editor	Robert Etherington
Typesetting	Xanadu Graphics Inc.
News Staff	
Nell Miller	Harold Pickett
Tom Hurley	Dal Thompson
Nancy Wechsler	Tony Domenick
Nick Olcott	Philip Shehadi
Kathy Travers	
Indexer	Charles Ash
Bulk Distribution	Ray Hopkins
Resource/Development	Mark Zimmerman
Features Staff	
Paula Bennett	John Kyper
Michael Bronski	Vicki Mead
Robert Chesley	Mitzel
Dave Drolet	Bill Mulkern
Sara Annie Fisher	Lisa Nussbaum
Gregg Howe	Harry Seng
Rudy Kikel	Cindy Stein
	Tony Vitale
Photographers	
Bettye Lane	Noelle Grays
Ken Rabb	Marcus DiVito
Eric Roth	Don C. Hanover III
Layout and Illustration Staff	
Bill Shawcross	Mark DeWolfe
Wellington	Bruce Crooker
Rick Hillegas	Mike Riegle
Promotions	
Don Barrett	Peter Martin
Doug Barry	Ken Westhassel
Mel Horne	

SOMEWHERE
265 FRANKLIN ST.
BOSTON
3 P.M.
$3.00 DONATION

FOOD, MUSIC, & RAFFLE
CHILDCARE PROVIDED
FOR INFO CALL:
628-6448
524-3746

a benefit
Sun. Sept. 10

lesbian & gay parents project

A RESOURCE, EDUCATION AND REFERRAL CENTER FOR LESBIAN MOTHERS AND GAY FATHERS STRUGGLING WITH CUSTODY, VISITATION AND RELATED ISSUES

Subscriptions keep us healthy

New ☐
Renewal ☐

	Rates
☐ 3 years (150 issues)	$47.00
☐ 2 years (100 issues)	33.50
☐ 1 year (50 issues)	17.50
☐ 25 weeks	10.00
☐ 12 weeks	5.00

(These rates are for subscriptions within the USA. Add 20% for foreign.)

Name _____

Address _____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

All subscriptions sent in sealed, no-peek envelopes. Make check or money order payable to "GCN," Do NOT send cash through the mail. Our subscriber list is confidential, and is never sold or used except for mailing GCN.

Mail with payments to:
GCN Subscriptions
22 Bromfield St.
Boston, MA 02108

Signature _____

Account No. _____

Expiration Date _____

☐ VISA ☐ MASTER CHARGE

NEWS NOTES

GAYS FIGHT BYRNE

Members of Boston's gay community are currently organizing a campaign to prevent the re-election of Suffolk County District Attorney Garrett Byrne in the Sept. 19 Democratic primary. He has been instrumental in suppressing the civil liberties of minorities including gays and women. A recent campaign brochure states that Byrne is "winning his war against sex criminals" and goes on to describe how a school bus driver is now serving 22 life sentences for raping 8-12 year old boys. A black woman, Ella Ellison was convicted on a felony murder charge which was prosecuted by Byrne's office. Ellison's conviction was reversed recently due to a July 15 court decision that her constitutional rights had been violated by the prosecutor's withholding evidence that might have cleared her. During his last campaign Byrne prosecuted Dr. Kenneth Edelin on a manslaughter charge for performing an abortion. Byrne also established indictments in the alleged Revere sex ring case last December followed by a hotline for tips on "child molesters."

Ed Hougen, chairperson of the Voter Registration Committee for the Massachusetts Caucus for Gay Legislation said, "The Boston Boise Committee case makes it clear that Garrett Byrne was attempting to capitalize on the homophobia to relate gays as child molesters for political gain. It is essential that he not be re-elected because it will give impetus to other politicians to attack the rights of the gay community."

Ken Rabb

Demonstration against Byrne, Boston, April 1978

REVERE TRIALS BEGIN

BOSTON — On September 1, the first of the so-called Revere trials will begin at 10 a.m. at Suffolk County Court. Joe Miller of the Boston Boise Committee requests support from the community for presence at the trial:

"We realize there have been delays and the timing of this trial coinciding with Anita Bryant's visit is politically motivated. We feel a strong turnout from people in the community interested in civil liberties is appropriate. The Boston Boise Committee has resolved to act as a media watchdog to ensure that sensationalism of media which has accompanied the trials is not allowed to continue. We wish to see that there is no attmept to link the sensational witchhunt which Anita Bryant represents with the fair trial of anyone from the gay community."

Information on the trial and anyone who wishes to participate should contact Joe Miller at 267-4521.

LESBIANS AT BPL

The Gay Speakers Bureau of Boston will present a slide-tape presentation entitled, *Straight Talk about Lesbians* at 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, September 5 in the Rabb Lecture Hall at the Boston Public Library in Copley Square. The 35-minute slide-tape is produced by Women's Educational Media, a group of lesbians from the North Shore community. The purpose of the series is to reach all sectors of the gay as well as straight community as part of public education.

David Peterson, President of the Gay Speakers Bureau, said, "We are the first gay organization to be granted use of library facilities. We had to threaten a law suit and wait four months in order to use the facilities." He continued, "My own personal hope is that this will encourage future public education programs by the gay and feminist communities."

"To criticize is to appreciate, to appropriate, to take intellectual possession, to establish *in fine* a relation with the criticized thing and to make it one's own."
— Henry James —

The Nellie Wood Heights Neighborhood Assoc.

— A good gay community on the slopes of Fort Hill —

The following organizations have shown their support for action on the part of the lesbian & gay community:

MASS. CAUCUS for GAY LEGISLATION
GAY SPEAKERS BUREAU
AM TIVKA
INTEGRITY
CLEARSPACE
ARADIA COUNSELING for WOMEN

Anita protects her children.
We protect ours.
Join with us.

COMMITTEE for GAY YOUTH
BOX 10GY
22 BROMFIELD ST.
BOSTON, MASS. 02108

The Gay Speakers Bureau Presents:

STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT LESBIANS

— a 35 minute slide/tape presentation by Women's Educational Media —

Tues: Sept. 5, 1978
7:15 p.m.
Free — Open to the public

at the
Rabb Lecture Hall
BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
Copley Square, Boston

"...a joyous celebration of the lesbian lifestyle. I only wish I could have seen it when I was thirteen."
JEAN O'LEARY, Co-Executive Director, National Gay Task Force

WANTED

For Crimes Against Humanity

Anita Bryant

ON FRIDAY, SEPT. 1ST
ANITA BRYANT IS BRINGING HER ACT TO BOSTON
JOIN US IN SHOWING HER THAT WHAT SHE STANDS FOR IS NOT WELCOME HERE

GATHER

AT 6:00 p.m.
ON COPLEY SQUARE

CELEBRATE

AFTER THE DEMO —
DETAILS TO BE
ANNOUNCED

DEMONSTRATE

AT 7:00 p.m.
AT HYNES AUDITORIUM
PRUDENTIAL CENTER

— ORGANIZED BY THE SEPTEMBER ONE COALITION —
200 PEOPLE FROM THE GAY & WOMEN'S COMMUNITIES

Advertisement